WASHINGTON STATE REPORT – JUNE 2020

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Forgive the brief Report. We are suddenly in a financial situation which we had thought was behind us regarding Community Living and Facility Care. Last Session our Legislature agreed to implement the recommendations of a two-year study and negotiation that would have placed facility care and community living on even footing.

As in other parts of the country, **COVID-19** has taken its toll here in Washington State, both health-wise & economically. Our Nursing Facilities/ICFs (known in WA as RHCs) have been fortunate. Yakima Valley School is the only NF that has reported presence of the virus. Two residents tested asymptomatic. Over the RHC system 40+ staff have tested positive for COVID-19 and all have recovered. Fircrest School in Shoreline has been the hardest hit. We have had 11 infected residents. Again, all have recovered. Neither Rainier School nor Lakeland Village have been impacted by COVID-19.

Testing and re-testing is an ongoing action throughout our long-term care facilities. Protocols have been put into action that safeguard our residents should a positive test result. We have quarantine & isolation units for the stages of illness among our residents. Staff have far less movement between Houses than in the past. No Visitors are allowed on our campuses.

Fircrest shares its campus with the WA State Health Lab. The Lab and the University of Washington established joint protocols which are being implemented.

Economically, the Governor has called for 15% across the board cuts from all Departments. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) reviewed Department of Social & Health Services/Developmental Disabilities Administration (DSHS/DDA) suggestions and has released budget cut information.

Some of the current cuts from DDA includes closure of an ICF – Rainier School, Buckley, WA. Houses/Cottages throughout the system will be consolidated. Staffing will be cut. Salary increases are on hold.

The Community side is being hit just as hard. Last sessions negotiated vendor rate increases are gone. Plans for Community Crisis Stabilization beds are delayed. Reduction in individual & group supported employment will not take place.

Changing ELIGIBILITY for ICF/IID will drastically reduce services.

It remains to be seen if the Governor accepts these recommendations.

Now we go to work.